

BA-17
4-12-76

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TELEGRAM

INDICATE

☐ COLLECT☒ CHARGE TO USISFROM
BUENOS AIRES

CLASSIFICATION

EO 11652:
TAGS:
SUBJECT:GDS
SHUM, SOPN, AR
Interior Minister calls in AP Bureau Chief

DD 259

ACTION:

SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO: USIA WASHDC
IMMEDIATE
IMMEDIATE

OS S 2

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 8586

REF: BUENOS AIRES 8489-C

POL R
THRON

1. AP Bureau Chief Bill Nicholson was called to the Interior Ministry last night (November 14) where he had a 45 minute meeting alone with Interior Minister Harguindeguy. While Harguindeguy ostensibly saw Nicholson to inform him of the Ministry's efforts to locate Serrat, Nicholson feels the real reason was to warn him and the AP to be careful. Nicholson said the Minister seemed to know a lot about what went on at AP, "more than you would think".

2. Harguindeguy said AP reporter Serrat "got off easy" and when asked about a guarantee for Serrat's future safety he replied "if we felt we had the proof, we'd throw him in jail for eight years". He also implied that the same goes for Nicholson. At another point the

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

DRAFTED BY:

USIS:MOBrien/vp

DRAFTING DATE

11.15.77

TEL. EXT.

250

CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY

[REDACTED] DCN:MChaplin

REFERENCES:

USIS:JHiggins

USIS:JCorb

POL: [REDACTED]

AG: [REDACTED]

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DCN:MChaplin

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Minister said "we know what you're doing here". When pressed for what he meant by that remark, he replied "You arranged an interview for Mrs. (Rodolfo) Walsh with Patt Derian". *so what?* ~~To the best of our knowledge,~~ 3. (Embassy Comment: To the best of our knowledge, Mrs. Derian did not meet Mrs. Walsh). However, Nicholson said that Mrs. Walsh visited the AP office two or three times and expressed an interest in meeting Mrs. Derian. When American correspondents met with Mrs. Derian at the PAO residence and she mentioned that one of the purposes of her visit was to meet with family members of disappeareds, Nicholson mentioned Mrs. Walsh's name, but said he didn't know how to get in touch with her. The ~~very~~ next day Mrs. Walsh appeared again at the AP office and Nicholson gave her the Embassy telephone number and said she could reach Mrs. Derian there. This was his only involvement.

4.
3. "The Minister definitely tried to bully me" Nicholson told the USIS Press Officer. He said the atmosphere was tense and at times "tempers flared". He added that he would report the substance of this conversation to his New York editors today and had no objection to the Department transmitting the substance of this message to ^{AP's} Keith Fuller in New York. ^{said he}

5. Nicholson/has no intention of leaving or changing AP's style of operation in the light of these developments.

CASTRO *[Signature]*

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OPTIONAL FORM